



FREEDOM Watch



Aug. 10, 2002

Published in the interest of those serving in Operation Enduring Freedom

Bagram, Afghanistan

News briefs

(Compiled from
CNN.com)

Iraq says UK holds key to conflict

LONDON — Iraq says it believes that if Britain refuses to support U.S. plans for war against Baghdad, conflict could be averted.

“Nobody supports the United States except Britain,” Iraq’s representative in London, Mudhafar Amin, told Reuters on Wednesday. “If Britain refused to go along with the United States’ war against Iraq then I think the American administration would find it very difficult to go ahead.”

Amin also accused Washington of using UK Prime Minister Tony Blair’s declared open-ended support for his war on terror as a diplomatic front.

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82nd Airborne paratrooper wounded

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — An 82nd Airborne Division paratrooper was wounded in Afghanistan Aug. 7. The soldier came under enemy small arms fire while conducting a reconnaissance patrol

with special operations and other conventional forces near L’Wara, Afghanistan.

Sgt. Patrick Holt, 24, 1st Platoon, Company B, 1st Battalion, 505th

Parachute Infantry Regiment, was listed in stable condition.

Holt, a native of Southfield, Mich., was evacuated to Bagram Air Base for initial treatment and then evacuated to

Landstuhl Army Medical Center in Germany for follow-up treatment. His injuries are not life threatening and he is expected to make a full recovery. (82nd Airborne Corps news release.)

Twin brothers cross paths in Afghanistan

Story & photo by Sgt.
Eric Barker
300th Mobile Public
Affairs Detachment

KHANDAHAR AIR FIELD, Afghanistan — War is hard.

It tears people and countries apart. Soldiers are taken away from friends and family. Mother is away from son. Father is away from daughter. Brother is separated from brother.

However, in this case, “Operation Enduring Freedom” has brought identical twin brothers together here in Khandahar, if only

for a few days. Spc. Matthew E. Allen, a military policeman with the 21st MP Co. out of Fort Bragg, N.C., and his twin Spc. Joshua M. Allen, an infantry gunner with 2nd Platoon, Co. C, 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry out of Fort Campbell, Ky., had not seen each other in last the six months until they had small reunion here recently.

“It’s funny,” said Matthew, the younger twin by four minutes. “Growing up, we

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Identical twin brothers Spcs. Matthew E. Allen, a military policeman with the 21st MP Co., Fort Bragg, N.C., and Joshua M. Allen, an infantry gunner with 2nd Platoon, Co. C, 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry, Fort Campbell, Ky., recently crossed paths at Khandahar Air Field, Afghanistan.

Demining teams make way for more ANA training

By Sgt. Don Dees
300th Mobile Public
Affairs Detachment

KABUL, Afghanistan — Contracted demining teams under U.S. Army supervision have cleared about half of the required area for maneuver training for recruits in the new Afghan National Army.

Bosnian demining experts have cleared one maneuver area of about 270,000 square meters and are working on a second area the same size, said Capt. Antonio Tyler of the Coalition Joint Task Force 180 Engineer cell.

The cell oversees the assets for mine clearing in theater. Task force engineers provided a team to supervise the demining, said Sgt. 1st Class Robert Navra, who along with Tyler comes from the 20th Engineer Brigade of Fort Bragg, N.C.

The cleared areas are training ranges for the Kabul Military Training Center. Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group of Fort

Bragg provide basic infantry instruction to trainees at the center.

The work done by RONCO, a contract company that provides demining services, differs from mine clearing normally done by Army engineer assets, said Tyler. Engineers use clearing equipment, or detonate mines with explosives to clear a maneuver area for an operation, he said. The Bosnian deminers, employed by RONCO, find and remove the mines.

The benefit is that trainees can concentrate on their skills rather than their safety, said Tyler.

"They don't have to worry about mine strikes when they go to ground, or blowing up if they take a knee in the training area."

The demining process is deliberately slow, but progressing well. "They expected to find a high concentration of mines here, but the area is relatively clear," said Tyler.

"There were indicators like fighting positions and what the locals told us," said Navra.



Sgt. Jamey Cowley, an EOD soldier from Fort Carson, Colo., working with a Bosnian contract deminer, examines suspected ordnance at an area being cleared for Afghan National Army maneuver training.

When it comes to mines, "they'd rather find a large number in one space," said Navra. "If there are a lot, there is usually a pattern. If there is only one, then they have to probe the whole area to be sure."

So far the deminers have only found a handful of unexploded ordnance. Projectiles have been discovered in the area and villagers have brought them some as well.

"We've seen 100 mm

(projectiles) and 115 millimeters," said Sgt. Jamey Cowley, an Explosive Ordnance Disposal soldier assigned to the task force from the 764th EOD at Fort Carson, Colo.

The artillery shells were high explosive rounds. Other ordnance included 60 mm mortar rounds and 57 mm rockets, he said.

When the deminers find UXO, soldiers like Cowley examine it to de-

termine if it can be safely removed or if it must be destroyed in place.

"They have the means to find it but they don't have the means to dispose of it," said Cowley of the contractors.

If ordnance can be removed, an EOD team takes it to a disposal area and detonates it. If it must be destroyed in place it can halt the clearing efforts for up to ten days.

"It messes up the dogs' sensitivity," said Navra.

Environmental factors have placed the largest obstacles in front of the teams.

"The heat and the terrain are factors," said Tyler. "The dogs can only work about four or five hours before they get tired."

To compensate, the teams arrive at the work site as the sun comes up and continue through the morning before the heat of the day takes its toll.

"Afghan trainees deserve the same safe training environment we expect for our soldiers," said Tyler.

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Crash leaves 10 feared dead

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — Workers plan to resume their search Friday for the bodies of 10 U.S. fliers feared dead after a special operations plane crashed in the Puerto Rican jungle. The MC-130H crashed Wednesday night, slamming into a mountain

about 20 miles south of San Juan amid rain and heavy fog. The plane was en route to the U.S. Navy base at Roosevelt Roads when it disappeared from radar about 10 p.m. About 100 workers suspended their search for the wreckage Thursday night. Although only 20 miles south of San Juan, the crash site takes more than an hour to reach from the nearest road.

HIND SIGHT

1539

King Francis of France declares that all official documents are to be written in French, not Latin.

1582

Russia ends its 25-year war with Poland.

1846

The Smithsonian Institution is established in Washington through the bequest of James Smithson.

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weren't as close as we should have been. After joining the Army and deploying, we actually have become a lot closer. It just brings the importance of family to light and I feel a little bad about not being closer before."

"I think it's cool we are over here together," added Joshua, who arrived in country about six months earlier. "Being in different units at different locations, I don't get to see much of him. I just wish he had gotten here a lot

earlier. I was hoping to spend more time together."

The two brothers have known since they were little that they wanted to join the Army.

"Since we were 5, we always new we wanted to join. Our favorite game was going to the woods and playing Army," said Matthew.

"We both knew what we wanted to do and it was just a matter of time. I am happy with my decision. The six months I have been in country I have done more than most people do in a year," Joshua added.

Having one child in a combat zone can be rough on parents. Having two in combat can be even rougher.

"My mother was a wreck," Joshua said. "She is more concerned than before, now that we both are over here. My parents are very religious. So they get comfort from the church and pray a lot. I feel kind of bad for putting them through this. But this is something we had to do."

However, Matthew said their parents have nothing to worry about.

"They don't have to worry about us," he

said. "Our leadership is great. The Army has trained us well on what we need to do. So we can take care of ourselves."

Competition is a part of most brother-to-brother relationships. The twins are no different.

"Joshua has a few more patches than me. So, I've got some catching up to do. I am still very proud of my brother," Matthew said.

"We push each other in physical training, schools, patches and etc. All that stuff is good because it helps us become better soldiers,"

said Joshua.

Despite the competition, the brothers admit that they worry about each other. This became even more evident when the twins recently received a Red Cross message.

"Time stopped for a moment when I first heard I had a message. You know the risks. You just hope and pray it's not him. Thankfully, it wasn't," explained Joshua.

"Of course we worry about each other," Matthew said. "However, our leadership is great and so was our training. I have confidence in God and the Army."

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Sunday</i>
Bagram:	<i>Thunderstorms</i> H:100F L: 68F	<i>Showers</i> H: 100F L: 66F
Khandahar:	<i>Dusty</i> H: 108F L: 73F	<i>Dusty</i> H: 108F L: 73F
Kabul:	<i>Mostly clear</i> H: 97F L: 73F	<i>Mostly clear</i> H: 93F L: 73F
Uzbekistan:	<i>Clear</i> H: 105F L: 70F	<i>Clear</i> H: 105F L: 70F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

Visit the CENTCOM Website to see the latest editions of *Freedom Watch* at
www.centcom.mil/operations/CJTF%20180/cjtf180.htm

FREEDOM WATCH

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To be added to the daily distribution list, e-mail reeba.critser@us.army.mil

COALITION SPORTSZONE

The NFL wants 'you' for their campaign

The National Football League is looking for a few good men and women for a special mission.

The NFL will produce a series of commercial spots called "Postcards from Home," profiling deployed service members keeping in contact with loved ones and friends back home. The "Postcards From Home" campaign will consist of 15-20 commercials altogether. The first four to five spots will air Sept. 5 through the fall, with additional ads for Thanksgiving, Christmas and the Super Bowl.

The NFL film team is looking for heartwarming, dynamic and visually stunning stories of service men and women who are communicating often with their families to help illustrate both sides of personal dedication and sacrifice.

Some examples of story ideas include:

- ❖ A sports coach who is serving but keeps in touch with his team.
- ❖ Military personnel who left a corporate job but e-mail their co-workers often.
- ❖ A farming family who will be missing their son or daughter during harvest time while he or she serves.
- ❖ A class of inner city children who write often to a particular service member.

Recommendations must include the service member's name, rank, unit, installation, age, current duty location, hometown and contact information (DSN/e-mail). It must also include the service member's current deployment duties, who and how that service member keep in touch with those back home and the nature of the relationship shared (parents, friend, students, spouse, etc.). In addition, include the submitter's name, DSN number and e-mail where, the unit's location (in theatre) and the unit commander or first sergeant's name.

Send all entries to timothy.beninato@us.army.mil or rhonda.m.lawson@us.army.mil. Or stop by the Morale, Welfare and Recreation tent on Friday, 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Zulu, and 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Zulu, and sign up at the Hometown News Release desk.

For more information, call DSN 318-231-4239.

(Combined Joint Task Force – 180 news release)

*If you have story ideas, call the
28th Public Affairs Detachment at
318 - 231- 4239*

2002 Major League standings

American League East			GB
N.Y. Yankees	70-42	.625	-
Boston	65-46	.586	4.5
Baltimore	54-57	.482	15.5
American League Central			GB
Minnesota	69-46	.600	-
Chicago (AL)	53-61	.465	15.5
Cleveland	50-62	.446	17.5
American League West			GB
Seattle	70-44	.614	-
Anaheim	67-45	.598	2
Oakland	65-48	.575	4.5
National League East			GB
Atlanta	74-38	.661	-
N.Y. Mets	56-56	.500	18
Montreal	56-56	.500	18
National League Central			GB
St. Louis	59-50	.541	-
Houston	58-53	.523	2
Cincinnati	58-53	.523	2
National League West			GB
Arizona	69-44	.616	-
San Francisco	62-50	.550	6.5
Los Angeles	62-51	.549	7.5

Friday

Baltimore 6-4 Minnesota
Milwaukee 6-0 N.Y. Mets
Oakland 3-2 Boston
Houston 7-2 Florida
Cleveland 6-2 Tampa Bay
Montreal 3-1 St. Louis
Texas 7-2 Detroit
Colorado 3-2 Cincinnati
N.Y. Yankees 6-2 Kansas City
Seattle 5-4 Toronto
Anaheim 6-2 Chicago W. Sox

Today

Minnesota at Baltimore
Oakland at Boston
Tampa Bay at Cleveland
Texas at Detroit
Kansas City at N.Y. Yankees
Seattle at Toronto
Anaheim at Chicago W. Sox
N.Y. Mets at Milwaukee
Florida at Houston
Montreal at St. Louis
Cincinnati at Colorado
Philadelphia at San Diego
Atlanta at Arizona
Pittsburgh at Los Angeles
Chicago Cubs at San Francisco